

Appl. No. 09/599,812

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This communication is in response to the Office action dated February 5, 2004, for which a three-month shortened statutory period for response is set for May 5, 2004. Please amend the above-identified application in accordance with the directions set forth below.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 14 of this paper.